

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AMREP

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

SUMMARY -- CONGRESSIONAL ATTEMPTS TO HINDER THE PANCANAL NEGOTIATIONS, NOW EXPANDED BY SENATOR BYRD'S INTRODUCTION ON THE SENATE SIDE OF A REPLICA OF THE SNYDER AMENDMENT, ABSORBED MUCH OF OUR TIME AND ENERGY THIS WEEK, AND WE ARE VOICING OUR CONCERN OVER THE SERIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM INVOLVED. CRITICAL CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION ALSO CONTINUES TO BE FOCUSED ON CHILE, FOLLOWING THE GOC CANCELLATION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISIT. ON THE "MORE ENCOURAGING" LIST, WE EXPECT GREEN SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE GREEN AMENDMENT FAIRLY SOON, THE SAN JOSE MEETINGS HAVE BEGUN WELL, AND THE ROBINSON VISIT TO VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL PROVED A USEFUL AND WELL RECEIVED INITIATIVE. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE NEW IDB REPLENISH-
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MENT FORMULA RECENTLY ACCEPTED BY THE BANK'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

1. BOB MCCLOSKEY, ELLSWORTH BUNKER, BILL JORDAN AND I SPENT A GOOD PART OF THIS WEEK MOUNTING A CONCERTED

CAMPAIGN WITH THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AGAINST THE BYRD (DUPLICATE OF SNYDER) AMENDMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROPRIATIONS BILL. IN OUR REPRESENTATIONS WE ARE POINTING OUT THE ILLOGIC OF HAMSTRINGING AN ONGOING NEGOTIATING PROCESS RATHER THAN GIVING IT A CHANCE TO PRODUCE RESULTS WHICH CAN THEN BE FULLY CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE ON THEIR MERITS. WE ARE ALSO STRESSING THE SERIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM POSED BY THE AMENDMENT -- I.E., DIRECT LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INTERFERENCE IN THE PRESIDENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF TREATIES.

2. ELSEWHERE ON THE HILL, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GREEN SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE GREEN AMENDMENT BEFORE THE AUGUST RECESS, AND ECUADOR'S CUT IN ITS OIL PRICES MAY HELP US A BIT ON THIS ONE. ON CHILE, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE NEGATIVE REACTION TO GOC CANCELLATION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISIT. THERE IS ALSO QUITE A BIT OF CONCERN THAT CHILE IS BEING UNDULY FAVORED IN PL-480 ALLOCATIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS SENTIMENT WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO SOME TYPE OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

3. THE ATMOSPHERICS IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE GATHERING OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES IN SAN JOSE ARE EXCELLENT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE RIO TREATY AMENDMENTS IS PROCEEDING AT A SATISFACTORY PACE. WE ARE MAINTAINING OUR NON-ACTIVIST POSTURE IN THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES PLANNING FOR THE NEXT STEPS, ALLOWING THE LATINS TO TAKE THE LEAD. A MEXICAN DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FREEDOM OF ACTION ON CUBA SANCTIONS IN FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, NON-RHETORICAL TERMS SEEMS TO BE GARNERING THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF SUPPORT TO DATE. THE MEXICANS, HOWEVER, ARE ATTEMPTING TO LINE UP 14 COUNTRIES AS CO-SPONSORS OF THEIR DRAFT, THEREBY BUILDING CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THE REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS VOTE BEFORE THE RESOLUTION IS FORMALLY PRESENTED, AND THE PROSPECTS FOR THIS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN.

4. WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE ROBINSON TRIP TO VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL AND THINK IT LAID USEFUL GROUNDWORK FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. WHILE GOV OFFICIALS WELCOMED THE 'S PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND ENERGY PREPCON, THE BRAZILIANS SEEMED LESS ENTHUSIASTIC, PERHAPS REFLECTING BRAZIL'S RELATIVELY GREATER INTEREST IN BILATERALISM AND LESSER DEPENDENCE ON LDC SOLIDARITY. OUR TEAM ALSO NOTED THE SHARP CONTRAST BETWEEN BRAZIL'S INTEREST IN THE WORLD SCENE AND VENEZUELA'S MORE LIMITED FOCUS ON THE LDC GROUP AND ON A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE HEMISPHERE. IT IS CLEAR THAT

THE MAIN ISSUE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH VENEZUELA REMAINS THE EXCLUSION OF OPEC NATIONS FROM THE GSP PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT. THE BRAZILIANS INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH OUR PROPOSAL FOR CLOSER BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON TRADE ISSUES, ALTHOUGH GOB OFFICIALS COMPLAINED THAT THEY ARE BEING PENALIZED FOR BEING PRAGMATIC AND MAKING MORE LIMITED AND REALISTIC PROPOSALS THAN SOME OF THE MORE STRIDENT (AND ATTENTION GETTING) LDC'S.

5. THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE IDB HAS NOW GIVEN OFFICIAL SANCTION TO A REPLENISHMENT FORMULA. THIS WOULD INVOLVE BOTH FSO LOCAL CURRENCY CONVERTIBILITIES TO DOLLARS BY ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, BRAZIL AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (WHICH WOULD ALSO AGREE NOT TO BORROW AGAINST THE FSO ACCOUNT) AND ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE US AND CANADA. THE PLAN WOULD LOWER OUR VOTE LEVEL FROM 42 TO 35 PERCENT, REFLECTING THE DECREASE IN OUR RELATIVE SHARE OF CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT THIS IS STILL SUFFICIENT TO RETAIN OUR "VETO". KISSINGER

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